



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The prospect of emerging new political institutions in South Vietnam is beginning to interest important men outside the new Constituent Assembly and outside the government.

The influential retired General Tran Van Don is one of these people. One of the principal leaders of the anti-Diem coup, he has been on the sidelines since well before Ky came to power. Now he and some of his friends are discussing the idea of forming a political party to compete in the national elections promised for next year.

General Don told Ambassador Lodge last night that he is thinking very seriously of being a candidate for Congress under the new Constitution.

2. South Vietnam

The government may be preparing to release those Buddhist "strugglers" still in jail. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Some "struggle" leaders may, in fact, already have been freed.

3. Communist China

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4. West Germany

Political turmoil in Communist China is likely to cost Peking the large steel-rolling mill to be built by a German-led group of European firms.

If the deal is shelved, it will relieve the Erhard government of the credit guarantee it approved last March. The government's backing had aroused both domestic and international opposition.

5. Congo

The government's success in regaining control of Kisangani (Stanleyville) has prompted Mobutu to move further against Katangan separatism.

Former prime minister Tshombé has been formally charged with high treason and will be tried--presumably in absentia--by a special military tribunal. South Katangan governor Munongo was jailed in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) yesterday for hatching a plot against the government. Although Munongo was released, some of his alleged associates, both European and Congolese, remain in custody.

Our embassy in Kinshasa believes this sort of move against Munongo is very likely to cause more trouble than it would solve.

6. Egypt

Nasir has agreed to Damascus' request that he send troops to Syria to be used in the event of an Israeli attack. The Egyptians are insisting, however, that the force be kept at a separate base under Egyptian control.

The presence of these troops would discourage rash actions by the Syrian military against Israel or each other.

7. Canada

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8. Malaysia

When asked about the coming Manila conference during a press conference yesterday, the prime minister said simply, "We have not been invited. If invited, Malaysia will attend."

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